Athletic Council
April 19, 2024

Attendance: Tim Anderson, Kirstin Kay, Diane Barstow, Rebecca Spencer, Ryan Bamford, Rod Warnick, Ed Ward, Linda Griffin, Doug Martini, Tim Mitchell, Drew St Auban (guest admin), Greg Cannella (guest coach)

1. **Approval of the minutes from March 2024 – approved**

2. **Guest admin – Drew St. Auban (Sr. Exec Dir of Development/Chief Development Officer)**

   Came from Purdue, prior to that was at San Diego State. Working on the upcoming UMass Gives campaign. Training under Dave Biancamano.

3. **Guest coach – Greg Cannella (Head Coach Men's Lax)**

   Grew up on Long Island, his dad was a lax coach. Went to UMass, played lax then went to Stony Brook and coached and taught Phys Ed. Then back to UMass. This is his 30th year as head coach. 50-year reunion class is coming back this weekend. Had a lot of support from alums that have supported the field upgrades and stands and board. Alum also help the athletes – they come back and do leadership panels and job placement. 22 of the players are in Isenberg. They have a number of players that were redshirted as freshman in the COVID year so they will have a second 5th year this coming year.

   Host the A10 tournament in May. Currently we need to win one of the two remaining games to make it automatically to the tournament.

   No MLAX in the MAC so we have asked the A10 for MLAX to stay. Also looking at other opportunities in case the A10 does not approve. We will know in the next few months as others shake out (Delaware is also looking for a place).

4. **Update from the Athletic Director – Ryan Bamford**

   Winter season – almost had Denver and they went on to win the national title (we lost in double OT).

   MAC will start rowing – with EMich, Temple, High Point. MLAX still up in the air.

   WLax is playing really well, nice win against UConn this week (who had been on a win streak).

Baseball has an outside shot at the A10 tournament (only 7 teams get in). Matt has done well with the young group, low scholarship.

Softball doing well with a tough non-conference schedule, doing well in A10, it's wide open going into the tournament.

Rowing – it's us and Rhode Island leading the A10. They have a few injuries.

Tennis finishes this weekend – we'll probably be the #2 seed. VCU is really good, nationally ranked.

T&F – have broken 5 records already. Women have had a lot of injuries, so not terribly deep. Both Men and Women should finish in top 3 or 4.

Transfer/NIL landscape: It's effecting all the schools – even the best. They shop around for their worth. We've lost some of our starters for MBB. FB may be gaining more than they are losing. We're approaching an employment model for student-athletes in the next few years.

How are athletes taking the MAC transition? Generally positive. Some of the sports uncertain of a home are uncertain, basketballs a bit uncertain, but so much is changing, and we have time and still surveying the landscapes.

Athletics GSR is higher than anywhere else on campus. Our GSR is the top 10% in the country. So, our kids are graduating and leaving with good degrees (avg gpa is 3.2).

Diving – Andrew Bell dove at nationals and qualified for Olympic Trials. New diving coach, Missy Bernosky, was a great addition.

5. **Subcommittee updates (see full reports with annual report).**

Academic Success (Doug): Academic performance has been great. GSR and APR are all high. Kinesiology has the largest then Psych, then Sports Management. Colby Hall is great leader. All good.

Compliance (Linda): 6 level 3 self-reports; 15 waivers.

Equity and Diversity (Linda): 50% female – a little off; scholarships (men have 66%/women 44%). Equity consultant is hired to help manage meeting Title IX. Some nuance – for instance, many WLAX are from MA and eligible for state money. T&F missed on recruits and didn't fill 4 spots.

Facilities (Ed): Anthony provides great leadership. Projects included: renos to men's locker rooms; study to add bathrooms to Boyden basement; resurfaced tennis courts; track was resurfaced; redid the baseball field; ticket office roof replaced; looking at other locker room upgrades; study of Boyden pool upgrade; MLax locker room evaluation done; Mullins HVAC upgrades.

Student-athlete health and welfare (Kirstin): 40 concussions (6%) – in FBB, MBB, IH. Sr Exit Interviews – trying to expand the number and timing of those. So now doing them in fall, winter, and spring. Lots of student-development offerings and outreach work reported and DEIJ offerings.

Vision (Bob): Refreshed strategic vision will come out this summer; stalled given the conference change.

Finance (Mitchell): See last meeting notes as well.

6. **New business**

Presenting at Faculty Senate on May 2nd

Appointment of the nominating committee: Bob Goodhue & Rebecca Spencer